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**From:** Supplee, Gwendolyn [Supplee.Gwendolyn@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 2/2/2021 4:48:10 PM  
**To:** Opila, MaryCate [Opila.MaryCate@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: PRESS QUERY: Rockwool Plant in West Virginia  
**Attachments:** FW: Rockwool

MC,  
I looked in the permits electronic file, but the only permit that appears to have been issued was the initial PSD permit which allowed for coal. It looks like from the correspondence in the folder, that in August the company announced that it was going to switch to use Natural Gas instead of coal, but didn't believe that a new permit would be required. I'm attaching the email that was in the folder about this.

I tried to give you a call, feel free to call me if there is anything else you need me to look at.  
-gwen

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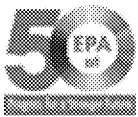
**From:** Opila, MaryCate <Opila.MaryCate@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 02, 2021 11:13 AM  
**To:** Supplee, Gwendolyn <Supplee.Gwendolyn@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: PRESS QUERY: Rockwool Plant in West Virginia

Hi Gwen,

See below. Didn't WV modify the Rockwool permit to switch from Coal to Natural Gas? If so, can you see if the permit is available online and send the link?

Thanks,  
Mary Cate

Mary Cate Opila, P.E., Ph.D.  
Chief, Permits Branch  
Air & Radiation Division  
EPA Region 3  
Mail Code: 3AD10  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
215-814-2041



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**From:** Sternberg, David <Sternberg.David@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 02, 2021 11:10 AM  
**To:** Landis, Jeffrey <Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Seneca, Roy <Seneca.Roy@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** White, Terri-A <White.Terri-A@epa.gov>; Nitsch, Chad <Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov>; Delgrosso, Karen <Delgrosso.Karen@epa.gov>; Fernandez, Cristina <Fernandez.Cristina@epa.gov>; Febbo, Carol <febbo.carol@epa.gov>; Chow, Alice <chow.alice@epa.gov>; Opila, MaryCate <Opila.MaryCate@epa.gov>; Ferrell, Mark <Ferrell.Mark@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: PRESS QUERY: Rockwool Plant in West Virginia

Looping in Christina, Carol, Alice, MaryCate and Mark to get your thoughts regarding his first follow up question (below).

Let me know. Thanks,

David

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**From:** Landis, Jeffrey <[Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov](mailto:Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 02, 2021 10:55 AM  
**To:** Sternberg, David <[Sternberg.David@epa.gov](mailto:Sternberg.David@epa.gov)>; Seneca, Roy <[Seneca.Roy@epa.gov](mailto:Seneca.Roy@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** White, Terri-A <[White.Terri-A@epa.gov](mailto:White.Terri-A@epa.gov)>; Nitsch, Chad <[Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov](mailto:Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov)>; Delgrosso, Karen <[Delgrosso.Karen@epa.gov](mailto:Delgrosso.Karen@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: PRESS QUERY: Rockwool Plant in West Virginia  
**Importance:** High

David,

It appears we have some follow-ups from this freelance reporter about the Rockwool Plant in WV. Question 1 we will field through ARD, and I will pass along Question 2 to HQ OPA, although it ought to go through the WHMO.

Also, please see our responses we sent to the reporter previously (attached). Thanks.

r/ Jeff Landis  
Senior Media Relations/Press Officer & Executive Events Coordinator  
Region 3 Office of Public Affairs (3RA21)  
215-814-2921; mobile 215-901-7424

**From:** Austyn Gaffney <[austyn.gaffney@gmail.com](mailto:austyn.gaffney@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 2, 2021 10:42 AM  
**To:** Landis, Jeffrey <[Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov](mailto:Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: PRESS QUERY: Rockwool Plant in West Virginia

Hi Jeffrey,

I had some followup questions for EPA Region 3. If you could answer, or provide any additional comment, by Thursday EOD, it would be greatly appreciated.

Questions:

Jefferson County community residents have stated EPA Region 3 needs to provide more oversight on the WVDEP, including forcing Rockwool to submit a new air quality permit reflective of a change in fuel sources (from coal and natural gas to just natural gas to ensure the use of best available control

technologies for natural gas). Has EPA Region 3 determined whether or not Rockwool should submit a new air quality permit? If so, why? If not, why not?

Jefferson County community residents have stated they are “cautiously optimistic” the federal EPA will become a more forceful institution under a Biden administration, including stricter oversight of the Clean Air and Water Acts. Does Biden plan on increasing EPA’s oversight over the states? Is there a timeline? If so, why? If not, why not?

Best,  
Austyn

On Fri, Jan 15, 2021 at 2:25 PM Landis, Jeffrey <[Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov](mailto:Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov)> wrote:

Austyn,

Thanks for your patience. Please see our response below as well as two attachments.

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### **EPA Responses:**

Q1) Would the Rockwool plant’s projected emissions ([linked here](#)) violate any EPA standards? Specifically, would any of the emissions violate any EPA standards according to Rockwool's own estimates?

**A1:** The linked document is Rockwool’s Clean Air Act Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) permit application submitted to West Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (WVDEQ) on November 20, 2017. Under the provisions of the federal Clean Air Act (CAA), EPA and WVDEQ are co-regulators but the permitting program is fully delegated to WVDEP. WVDEP advertised a draft air quality permit for public notice on March 28, 2018. EPA reviewed Rockwool’s draft permit for applicability of state and federal air emission control requirements. WVDEP addressed EPA’s comments and issued the permit to Rockwool on April 30, 2019. EPA believes WVDEP addressed all relevant federal and state requirements, including addressing our comments, before issuing the final PSD permit to Rockwool.

Q2) Has EPA Region 3 replied to the letter Jefferson County Foundation sent on July 21, 2020 (attached)? If so, can I have a copy of the EPA’s response? If not, why has the EPA not yet responded, and what might the EPA’s conclusions be based on the letter?

**A2:** EPA Mid-Atlantic Region received a letter from the Jefferson County Foundation, Inc., on July 9, 2020 (not July 21, 2020), with the subject of “Advisory: That West Virginia Entities Are Being Allowed to Operate Construction Projects In Violation of the Clean Water Act and Request for Stop Work.” A response to that letter was sent to JCF on Aug. 10, 2020. Both the original letter and EPA Mid-Atlantic Region’s response have been attached to this correspondence. The response underscores simply that EPA cannot comment on an ongoing or active litigation. As for the letter you mentioned dated July 21, 2020, addressed to David Ross, EPA’s Office of Water, please contact the Office of Water by emailing [Press@epa.gov](mailto:Press@epa.gov).

On Jan 14, 2021, at 2:23 PM, Seneca, Roy <[Seneca.Roy@epa.gov](mailto:Seneca.Roy@epa.gov)> wrote:

Austyn – I work in the EPA Region 3 press office and your inquiry was passed on to me. We are working on getting you a response. I will be off tomorrow so please contact my supervisor Jeff Landis if need anything further. Also, can you let us know what media you are writing for? Thanks. – Roy

Roy Seneca

EPA Region 3 Press Officer

Office of Public Affairs

[seneca.roy@epa.gov](mailto:seneca.roy@epa.gov)

(215) 814-5567

**From:** Austyn Gaffney <[austyn.gaffney@gmail.com](mailto:austyn.gaffney@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, January 14, 2021 8:43 AM

**To:** R3 RA <[R3\\_RA@epa.gov](mailto:R3_RA@epa.gov)>; Libertz, Catherine <[Libertz.Catherine@epa.gov](mailto:Libertz.Catherine@epa.gov)>;  
[pricefay.michelle@epa.gov](mailto:pricefay.michelle@epa.gov)

**Subject:** PRESS QUERY: Rockwool Plant in West Virginia

Hi Region 3 EPA,

I'm a reporter working on a story about the Rockwool plant in West Virginia and I had some specific questions I was hoping the Region 3 EPA staff could answer.

1) Would the Rockwool plant's projected emissions ([linked here](#)) violate any EPA standards?

Specifically, would any of the emissions violate any EPA standards according to Rockwool's own estimates?

2) Has EPA Region 3 replied to the letter Jefferson County Foundation sent on July 21, 2020 (attached)? If so, can I have a copy of the EPA's response? If not, why has the EPA not yet responded, and what might the EPA's conclusions be based on the letter?

My deadline is Friday EOD; please let me know if that's possible for you to meet, and if a phone call would be faster (270-784-1257).

All best,

Austyn

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Austyn Gaffney

Freelance Reporter

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